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CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

!! CANCELLED !!

Zoning

Public Infrastructure

Wednesday, Aug. 12

Budget 9 am

Executive Matters 1pm

Thursday, Aug 13

Transportation & Planning 9 am

Public Safety & Services 1pm

District 3 Staff

Paulyne Anakalea
Executive Secretary

Gail Myers
Senior Adviser

Andrew Malahoff
Senior Legislative Aide

Venus Acoba
Legislative Aide

Sharon Basmayor
Legislative Aide

COUNCILMEMBER IKAIKA ANDERSON DISTRICT 3 UPDATE AUGUST 2009

Aloha,

TAX CREDITS

The City enacted the County Tax Credit several years ago to help alleviate the tax burden faced by many taxpayers already struggling to make ends meet. There is still some confusion about this credit—which limits the property tax burden to a small percentage of the income of a homeowner whose assets are limited. To qualify, you must be a homeowner with no other property and a gross income of less than \$50,000 a year. If you qualify, your property tax liability is limited to 4% of your income. To be eligible you must be the titleholder, currently receive the standard exemption, own no other real property anywhere (local or otherwise) and the gross income of all titleholders must be less than \$50,000. The Council also amended the credit to provide additional relief to our low-income senior citizens. If a titleholder is older than 75 and found to be eligible, the tax liability will be limited to 3% of annual income. The deadline to apply for the credit or for any tax exemptions for next year is September 30, 2009. That means your application **MUST** be postmarked no later than September 30, 2009!!

TAX EXEMPTIONS

FILING DEADLINE:

An exemption is an amount by which your assessed valuation is reduced—not a credit on your taxes. So, for example, if your home has an assessed valuation of \$540,000, the standard homeowner's exemption will reduce to \$460,000 the amount on which you pay property taxes. September 30 is also the deadline for filing of any property tax exemptions.

STANDARD EXEMPTION:

All owners who live in their own homes are entitled to an \$80,000 exemption. You only need to apply once, but if you have purchased a pre-owned home, even if the prior owner had the exemption, you need to apply for the exemption for yourself. Once granted, the exemption will be in place for the entire time you own and live in the home. A note here, however: If you later move into another home and rent the original, you must notify the city and you can no longer claim the exemption for that house. **YOU MUST LIVE IN THE HOME TO CLAIM THE HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION.**

INDIVIDUALS 65 AND OLDER:

Homeowners who reach the age of 65 qualify for a \$120,000 exemption. You must reach the age of 65 by June 30 of the year preceding the tax year for which the exemption is claimed.

EXEMPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS 75 AND OLDER WITH LOW-INCOME:

If you are 75 or older and your household meets the HUD definition of low income, you may qualify for a further exemption as follows :

District 3 Events

3TALKS

“3Talks” are held throughout the district every month. All 3Talks start at 7pm and the public is encouraged to come and meet with their Council-member and staff.

Tuesday, August 18
Kaneohe Community & Senior Center
45-613 Puohala Street

Tuesday, September 22
St. John Lutheran Church
1004 Kailua Road

TBA
Waimanalo Public Library
41-1320 Kalanianaʻole Hwy.

Age of Taxpayer:

75-79
80-84
85-89
90+

Home Exemption Amount:

\$140,000
\$160,000
\$180,000
\$200,000

Again—you must apply for the credit and all exemptions by September 30th.

If you have any additional questions regarding real property assessments and taxation, please call the Real Property Assessment office at 527-5511.

OTHER EXEMPTIONS

There are other exemptions for disabilities, for some Native Hawaiians, etc., spelled out in the ordinances. If you believe you qualify for these and are not currently receiving them, please contact the Real Property Assessment office.

Mahalo,

Ikaika

Hurricane Preparedness

Just a reminder that June through November is hurricane season. Hawaii has already been the potential target of several tropical storms or cyclone systems which could have developed into treacherous hurricanes but fortunately dissipated or changed their courses before reaching the Islands. The City and County Department of Emergency Management uses highly sophisticated tracking techniques that are used to warn residents of impending storms on an ongoing basis during hurricane season. In the case of an emergency, information regarding the storms, evacuation, shelter, etc. will be broadcast on all television and radio stations. Outdoor siren warning systems can be interpreted by consulting the “Disaster Preparedness Guide” pages in the front of your telephone directory.

There often may not be much time to prepare for a hurricane once it passes into Hawaiian waters. Be as ready as possible before a hurricane approaches. Plan for enough food and water for your family and your pets for 5 to 7 days. Keep a battery operated radio as well as flashlights and candles handy. Don’t forget the batteries... and be careful with the matches. Remember, hurricanes are windy. A supply of personal medications and a first aid kit are a must. Familiarize yourself and your family with evacuation plans should it ever become necessary for you to leave your home. You may access www.oahuDEM.org on your computer for extended information and disaster preparedness.